



# Water Industry Act 1991

## 1991 CHAPTER 56

### PART VI **E+W**

#### UNDERTAKERS' POWERS AND WORKS

### CHAPTER I **E+W**

#### UNDERTAKERS' POWERS

##### *Powers in relation to land*

#### 155 **Compulsory purchase.** **E+W**

- (1) A relevant undertaker may be authorised by the Secretary of State to purchase compulsorily any land anywhere in England and Wales which is required by the undertaker for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying out of its functions.
- (2) The power of the Secretary of State under subsection (1) above shall include power—
  - (a) to authorise the acquisition of interests in and rights over land by the creation of new interests and rights; and
  - (b) by authorising the acquisition by a relevant undertaker of any rights over land which is to be or has been acquired by that undertaker, to provide for the extinguishment of those rights.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above, the land which a relevant undertaker may be authorised under that subsection to purchase compulsorily shall include land which is or will be required for the purpose of being given in exchange for, or for any right over, any other land which for the purposes of the <sup>M1</sup>Acquisition of Land Act 1981 is or forms part of a common, open space or a fuel or field garden allotment.
- (4) Subject to section 188 below, the <sup>M2</sup>Acquisition of Land Act 1981 shall apply to any compulsory purchase under subsection (1) above of any land by a relevant undertaker;

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

and Schedule 3 to the said Act of 1981 shall apply to the compulsory acquisition under that subsection of rights by the creation of new rights.

- (5) Schedule 9 to this Act shall have effect for the purpose of modifying enactments relating to compensation and the provisions of the <sup>M3</sup>Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 in their application in relation to the compulsory acquisition under subsection (1) above of a right over land by the creation of a new right.
- (6) The provisions of Part I of the <sup>M4</sup>Compulsory Purchase Act 1965 (so far as applicable), other than sections 4 to 8, 10, 21, 27(1) and 31 and Schedule 4, shall apply in relation to any power to acquire land by agreement which is conferred (whether by virtue of the [<sup>F1</sup>articles] of the company for the time being carrying out the functions of the undertaker or any enactment or otherwise) on a relevant undertaker, as if—
- (a) any reference in those provisions to the acquiring authority were a reference to that undertaker; and
  - (b) any reference to land subject to compulsory purchase were a reference to land which may be purchased by agreement under that power.

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Word in s. 155(6) substituted (1.10.2009) by The Companies Act 2006 (Consequential Amendments, Transitional Provisions and Savings) Order (S.I. 2009/1941), art. 2(1), {Sch. 1 para. 126(2)} (with art. 10)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 155: functions for certain purposes exercisable concurrently with the Secretary of State (W.) (1.7.1999) by S.I. 1999/672, art. 2, **Sch. 1**
- C2** S. 155(3)-(6) applied (11.8.2022) by The Sizewell C (Nuclear Generating Station) Order 2022 (S.I. 2022/853), art. 1, **Sch. 18 para. 7(3)** (with arts. 62, 76, 87)

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** 1981 c. 67.  
**M2** 1981 c. 67.  
**M3** 1965 c. 56.  
**M4** 1965 c. 56.

## 156 Restriction on disposals of land. **E+W**

- (1) A company holding an appointment under Chapter I of Part II of this Act shall not dispose of any of its protected land, or of any interest or right in or over any of that land, except with the consent of, or in accordance with a general authorisation given by, the Secretary of State.
- (2) A consent or authorisation for the purposes of this section—
- (a) shall be set out in a notice served by the Secretary of State on the company which is or may be authorised, by virtue of the provision contained in the notice, to dispose of land or of interests or rights in or over land or, as the case may be, on every such company; and
  - (b) in the case of an authorisation, may be combined with an authorisation for the purposes of section 157 of the <sup>M5</sup>Water Resources Act 1991.

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (3) A consent or authorisation for the purposes of this section may be given on such conditions as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.
- (4) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (3) above and subject to subsection (5) below, the conditions of a consent or authorisation for the purposes of this section may include—
- (a) a requirement that, before there is any disposal, an opportunity of acquiring the land in question, or an interest or right in or over that land, is to be made available, in such manner and on such terms as may be specified in or determined under provision contained in the notice setting out the consent or authorisation, to such person as may be so specified or determined;
  - (b) a requirement that the company making the disposal has complied with such of the conditions of its appointment under Chapter I of Part II of this Act as relate to the disposal of its protected land or of any interest or right in or over that land;
  - (c) a requirement that the company, before making a disposal in a case in which the land in question is situated in a National Park, in the Broads or in an area of outstanding natural beauty or special scientific interest, should do one or both of the following, that is to say—
    - (i) [<sup>F2</sup>consult with Natural England (as respects land in England) or [<sup>F3</sup>the NRBW] (as respects land in Wales); and
    - (ii) enter into such management agreements or such covenants under subsection (6) below as the Secretary of State may determine;]
  - (d) provision requiring determinations under or for the purposes of the consent or authorisation to be made, in such cases as are mentioned in paragraph (c) above, either by [<sup>F4</sup>Natural England] or [<sup>F3</sup>the NRBW] or only after consultation with [<sup>F5</sup>Natural England or [<sup>F3</sup>the NRBW]] .
- (5) A consent or authorisation shall not be given on any such condition as is mentioned in subsection (4)(a) above except where the Secretary of State is satisfied that the condition will have effect in relation only to—
- (a) land which, or any interest in or right over which, was acquired by the relevant undertaker in question, or any predecessor of that undertaker, either compulsorily or at a time when the undertaker or that predecessor was authorised to acquire it compulsorily; or
  - (b) land situated in a National Park, in the Broads or in an area of outstanding natural beauty or special scientific interest.
- (6) Where a company holding an appointment under Chapter I of Part II of this Act is proposing, in such a case as is mentioned in subsection (4)(c) above, to dispose of, or of any interest or right in or over, any of its protected land, it may enter into a covenant with the Secretary of State by virtue of which it accepts obligations with respect to—
- (a) the freedom of access to the land that is to be afforded to members of the public or to persons of any description; or
  - (b) the use or management of the land;
- and a covenant under this subsection shall bind all persons deriving title from or under that company and shall be enforceable by the Secretary of State accordingly.
- (7) Section 3 above shall have effect for the purposes of this section as if every proposal which—

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (a) is made by a company holding an appointment as a relevant undertaker with respect to land in a National Park, in the Broads or in an area of outstanding natural beauty or special scientific interest, or with respect to any interest or right in or over any such land; and
- (b) is a proposal for which the Secretary of State's consent or authorisation is required under this section,

were a proposal relating to the functions of such an undertaker.

(8) In this section—

“area of outstanding natural beauty or special scientific interest” means an area which—

- (a) is for the time being designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty <sup>F6</sup>under section 82 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 of the <sup>M6</sup>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000]; or
- <sup>F7</sup>(b) is a site of special scientific interest within the meaning of the <sup>M7</sup>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981;]

and the reference in subsection (4)(c) above to an area of special scientific interest shall, accordingly, be construed as a reference to an area such as is mentioned in paragraph (b) of this definition;<sup>F8</sup> . . .

“the Broads” has the same meaning as in the <sup>M8</sup>Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988.

<sup>F9</sup>“management agreement” means—

- (a) in relation to land in England, an agreement under section 39 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or section 7 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006;
- (b) in relation to land in Wales, an agreement under section 39 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 <sup>F10</sup>or section 16 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016].]

### Textual Amendments

- F2** S. 156(4)(c)(i)(ii) substituted (1.10.2006) by [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(c. 16\)](#), ss. 105(1), 107, [Sch. 11 para. 131\(2\)](#); S.I. 2006/2541, [art. 2](#)
- F3** Words in s. 156(4) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), [art. 1\(2\)](#), [Sch. 2 para. 249](#) (with Sch. 7)
- F4** Words in s. 156(4)(d) substituted (1.10.2006) by [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(c. 16\)](#), ss. 105(1), 107, [Sch. 11 para. 131\(3\)\(a\)](#); S.I. 2006/2541, [art. 2](#)
- F5** Words in s. 156(4)(d) substituted (1.10.2006) by virtue of [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(c. 16\)](#), ss. 105(1), 107, [Sch. 11 para. 131\(3\)\(b\)](#); S.I. 2006/2541, [art. 2](#)
- F6** S. 156(8): words in definition of “area of outstanding natural beauty or special scientific interest” in para. (a) substituted (1.4.2001 for E. and 1.5.2001 for W.) by [2000 c. 37, s. 93](#), [Sch. 15 Pt. I para. 12](#); S.I. 2001/114, [art. 2\(2\)\(e\)](#); S.I. 2001/1410, [art. 2\(g\)](#)
- F7** S. 156(8): para. (b) in definition of “area of outstanding natural beauty or special scientific interest” substituted (30.1.2001) by [2000 c. 37, ss. 76\(1\), 103\(2\)](#), [Sch. 10 Pt. II para. 9](#)
- F8** Word in s. 156(8) repealed (1.10.2006) by [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(c. 16\)](#), ss. 105(1)(2), 107, [Sch. 11 para. 131\(4\)](#), [Sch. 12](#); S.I. 2006/2541, [art. 2](#)
- F9** S. 156(8): definition inserted (1.10.2006) by [Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 \(c. 16\)](#), ss. 105(1), 107, [Sch. 11 para. 131\(4\)](#); S.I. 2006/2541, [art. 2](#)
- F10** Words in s. 156(8) inserted (21.5.2016) by [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(anaw 3\)](#), s. 88(2)(a), [Sch. 2 para. 5](#)

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

#### Marginal Citations

- M5 1991 c. 57.
- M6 2000 c. 37.
- M7 1981 c. 69.
- M8 1988 c. 4.

### 157 Byelaws with respect to undertakers’ waterways and land. **E+W**

- (1) Every relevant undertaker shall have power to make such byelaws as are mentioned in subsection (2) below with respect to any waterway owned or managed by that body and with respect to any land held or managed with the waterway.
- (2) The byelaws referred to in subsection (1) above in relation to any waterway or to any land held or managed with any such waterway are byelaws for any of the following purposes, that is to say—
  - (a) the preservation of order on or in any such waterway or land;
  - (b) the prevention of damage to anything on or in any such waterway or land or to any such land;
  - (c) securing that persons resorting to any such waterway or land so behave as to avoid undue interference with the enjoyment of the waterway or land by others.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of any of the paragraphs of subsection (2) above, the byelaws mentioned in that subsection include byelaws—
  - (a) regulating sailing, boating, bathing and fishing and other forms of recreation;
  - (b) prohibiting the use of the waterway in question by boats which are not for the time being registered, in such manner as may be required by the byelaws, with the undertaker making the byelaws;
  - (c) requiring the provision of such sanitary appliances as may be necessary for the purpose of preventing pollution;
  - (d) providing for a contravention of the byelaws to constitute a summary offence punishable, on summary conviction, by a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or such smaller sum as may be specified in the byelaws; and
  - (e) authorising the making of reasonable charges in respect of the registration of boats for the purposes of the byelaws.
- (4) Schedule 10 to this Act shall have effect with respect to byelaws under this section.
- (5) Byelaws made under this section shall cease to have effect at the end of the period of ten years beginning with the day on which they were made; but the Secretary of State may by order made by statutory instrument make provision in relation to any particular byelaws for those byelaws to continue to have effect for such period after the time when they would otherwise cease to have effect as may be specified in the order.
- (6) In this section—
  - “boat” includes a vessel of any description, and “boating” shall be construed accordingly;
  - “waterway” has the same meaning as in the National Parks and Access to the <sup>M9</sup>Countryside Act 1949.

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

### Marginal Citations

M9 1949 c. 97.

## *Pipe-laying*

### 158 Powers to lay pipes in streets. **E+W**

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, to section 162(9) below and to the provisions of Chapter III of this Part, every relevant undertaker shall, for the purpose of carrying out its functions, have power—
  - (a) to lay a relevant pipe in, under or over any street and to keep that pipe there;
  - (b) to inspect, maintain, adjust, repair or alter any relevant pipe which is in, under or over any street; and
  - (c) to carry out any works requisite for, or incidental to, the purposes of any works falling within paragraph (a) or (b) above, including for those purposes the following kinds of works, that is to say—
    - (i) breaking up or opening a street;
    - (ii) tunnelling or boring under a street;
    - (iii) breaking up or opening a sewer, drain or tunnel;
    - (iv) moving or removing earth and other materials.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1)(c) above, every water undertaker shall have power to erect and keep in any street notices indicating the position of such underground accessories for its relevant pipes as may be used for controlling the flow of water in those pipes.
- (3) The power conferred by subsection (2) above shall include power to attach any such notice as is mentioned in that subsection to any building, fence or other structure which is comprised in premises abutting on the street in question.
- (4) A stopcock fitted to any service pipe in a street shall be situated as near as reasonably practicable to the boundary of the street; and a water undertaker shall consult with the highway authority concerned before determining in accordance with this subsection where to fit a stopcock in a highway.
- (5) Where a water undertaker exercises its powers under this section for the purpose of carrying out works of maintenance, repair or renewal in relation to a service pipe belonging to a person other than the undertaker, the undertaker shall be entitled to recover from the occupier of the premises supplied by means of that pipe the expenses reasonably incurred by that undertaker in so exercising that power.
- (6) Until the coming into force of its repeal by the <sup>M10</sup>New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 section 20 of the <sup>M11</sup>Highways Act 1980 (works in special roads) shall have effect as if the reference in that section to a power under any enactment to lay down or erect apparatus included a reference to any power to lay any relevant pipe which is conferred by this section.
- (7) Subject to section 161(7) below, in this section references to a relevant pipe shall be construed—
  - (a) in relation to a water undertaker, as references to a water main (including a trunk main <sup>F11</sup>but not including a pipe laid in pursuance of section 66B(3)

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (a)(ii) above which is used for the purpose of supplying water other than for domestic or food production purposes or laid in pursuance of section 66B(3) (a)(iii) above], resource main, discharge pipe or service pipe; and
- <sup>F12</sup>(b) in relation to a sewerage undertaker, as references to—
- (i) any sewer or disposal main; <sup>F13</sup> ...
  - (ii) in relation to the exercise of a power to lay a pipe under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) above or a power related to that power under paragraph (c) of that subsection, any lateral drain which the undertaker is to lay by virtue of section 98 or 101B <sup>F14</sup>or any lateral drain which the undertaker is required to lay by virtue of section 117A(2) for the purpose of enabling the use of its sewerage system to provide sewerage services to premises in a retail exit area] above; <sup>F15</sup> ...
  - (iii) in relation to the exercise of any other power under subsection (1) above, any lateral drain which belongs to or is vested for the time being in the undertaker <sup>F16</sup>or
  - (iv) any pipe forming part of, or required in connection with, a drainage system constructed under section 114A.]]

<sup>F17</sup><sup>F18</sup>(8) Subsections (9) and (11) below apply where—

- (a) an appointment or variation has been made under section 7 above replacing a company as a relevant undertaker,
- (b) the appointment or variation relates only to parts of the area to which the company's appointment as relevant undertaker related, and
- (c) the conditions mentioned in subsection (5) of that section were required to be satisfied in relation to each of the premises in those parts served by that company.

<sup>F18</sup>(9) [ Where the company which has replaced the relevant undertaker has done so as water undertaker, in the application of this section and section 159 below in relation to that company any pipe supplying, or intended to supply, any of the premises referred to in subsection (8)(c) above with a supply of water which exceeds, or is likely to exceed, in any period of twelve months—

- (a) if the area of the relevant undertaker concerned is wholly or mainly in Wales, 250 megalitres;
- (b) in all other cases, <sup>F19</sup>50 megalitres] ,

shall, for the purposes of subsection (7) above, be deemed to be a water main.]]

(10) Where the Secretary of State makes regulations under section 7(6) above amending section 7(5)(a) above he shall by regulations make the corresponding amendment in subsection (9) above.

(11) Where the company which has replaced the relevant undertaker has done so as sewerage undertaker, in the application of this section and section 159 below in relation to that company any pipe draining, or intended to drain, any of those premises shall, for the purposes of subsection (7) above, be deemed to be a sewer.

#### Textual Amendments

- F11** Words in s. 158(7)(a) inserted (1.12.2005) by [Water Act 2003 \(c. 37\)](#), ss. 101(1), 105(3), [Sch. 8 para. 36](#); [S.I. 2005/2714](#), [art. 3\(c\)](#) (with [Sch. para. 8](#))

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- F12** S. 158(7)(b) substituted (28.5.2004) by [Water Act 2003 \(c. 37\)](#), **ss. 97(4)**, 105(3); S.I. 2004/641, **art. 4(b)** (with [Sch. 3 para. 7](#))
- F13** Word in s. 158(7)(b)(i) omitted (14.7.2014) by virtue of [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), **ss. 21(2)(a)**, 94(2)(d)
- F14** Words in s. 158(7)(b)(ii) inserted (E.) (31.10.2021) by [The Water and Sewerage Undertakers \(Exit from Non-household Retail Market\) \(Consequential Provision\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/1208\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(8)**
- F15** Word in s. 158(7)(b)(ii) omitted (14.7.2014) by virtue of [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), **ss. 21(2)(a)**, 94(2)(d)
- F16** S. 158(7)(b)(iv) and word inserted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), **ss. 21(2)(b)**, 94(2)(d)
- F17** S. 158(8)-(11) added (1.7.1992) by [Competition and Service \(Utilities\) Act 1992 \(c. 43\)](#), **s. 40(6)**; [Competition and Service \(Utilities\) Act 1992 \(Commencement No. 1\) Order 1992](#), art. 3, Sch. Pt. I
- F18** S. 158(9) substituted (17.8.2000) by [S.I. 2000/1842](#), **reg. 2**
- F19** Words in s. 158(9)(b) substituted (1.4.2005) by [The Water and Sewerage Undertakers \(Inset Appointments\) Regulations 2005 \(S.I. 2005/268\)](#), **art. 2(3)**

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 158 applied (with modifications) (21.7.1994) by [1994 c. xi](#), **s. 11(2)**  
 S. 158 restricted (1.4.1996) by [1980 c. 66](#), **s. 100(6B)(b)** (as inserted (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 19](#), s. 22(1), [Sch. 7 Pt. 1 para. 9](#) (with [ss. 54\(5\)\(7\)](#), [55\(5\)](#)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 3, [Sch. 1](#))
- C4** S. 158 applied (with modifications) (28.6.2013) by [The Water Industry \(Specified Infrastructure Projects\) \(English Undertakers\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1582\)](#), reg. 1(1)(b), [Sch. 1 para. 12\(1\)](#) (with reg. 1(1)(c))

#### Marginal Citations

- M10** [1991 c. 22](#).  
**M11** [1980 c. 66](#).

## 159 Power to lay pipes in other land. **E+W**

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, to section 162(9) below and to the provisions of Chapter III of this Part, every relevant undertaker shall, for the purpose of carrying out its functions, have power—
- (a) to lay a relevant pipe (whether above or below the surface) in any land which is not in, under or over a street and to keep that pipe there;
  - (b) to inspect, maintain, adjust, repair or alter any relevant pipe which is in any such land;
  - (c) to carry out any works requisite for, or incidental to, the purposes of any works falling within paragraph (a) or (b) above.
- (2) Nothing in subsection (1) above shall authorise a water undertaker to lay a service pipe in, on or over any land except where—
- (a) there is already a service pipe where that pipe is to be laid; <sup>F20</sup>...
  - (b) the undertaker is required to lay the pipe in, on or over that land by virtue of any of subsections (3) to (5) of section 46 above; [<sup>F21</sup>or]
  - <sup>F22</sup>(c) the undertaker is required to lay the pipe in, on or over that land by virtue of section 66A(3) for the purpose of enabling the use of its supply system to supply premises in a retail exit area.]
- (3) The power conferred by virtue of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) above, and the power conferred in relation to that paragraph by virtue of paragraph (c) of that subsection shall be exercisable in relation to a service pipe irrespective of the person to whom the pipe belongs; but expenses incurred in exercising those powers in relation to any



*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

pipe shall be recoverable from the person to whom the pipe belongs only if and to the extent that that person has agreed to pay them.

- (4) The powers conferred by this section shall be exercisable only after reasonable notice of the proposed exercise of the power has been given to the owner and to the occupier of the land where the power is to be exercised.
- (5) Subject to subsection (6) below, in relation to any exercise of the powers conferred by this section for the purpose of laying or altering a relevant pipe, the minimum period that is capable of constituting reasonable notice for the purposes of subsection (4) above shall be deemed—
- (a) where the power is exercised for the purpose of laying a relevant pipe otherwise than in substitution for an existing pipe of the same description, to be three months; and
  - (b) where the power is exercised for the purpose of altering an existing pipe, to be forty-two days.
- (6) Subsection (5) above shall not apply in the case of any notice given with respect to the exercise of any power in an emergency or for the purpose of—
- (a) laying or altering a service pipe; or
  - (b) complying with a duty imposed under section 41 or 98 above.
- (7) Subject to subsection (2) above, in this section “relevant pipe” has the same meaning as in section 158 above [<sup>F23</sup>(reading references there to subsection (1) as references to subsection (1) of this section).]

#### Textual Amendments

- F20** Word in s. 159(2)(a) omitted (E.) (31.10.2021) by virtue of [The Water and Sewerage Undertakers \(Exit from Non-household Retail Market\) \(Consequential Provision\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/1208\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(9)(a)**
- F21** Word in s. 159(2)(b) inserted (E.) (31.10.2021) by [The Water and Sewerage Undertakers \(Exit from Non-household Retail Market\) \(Consequential Provision\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/1208\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(9)(b)**
- F22** S. 159(2)(c) inserted (E.) (31.10.2021) by [The Water and Sewerage Undertakers \(Exit from Non-household Retail Market\) \(Consequential Provision\) Regulations 2021 \(S.I. 2021/1208\)](#), regs. 1(2), **2(9)(c)**
- F23** Words in s. 159(7) inserted (28.5.2004) by [Water Act 2003 \(c. 37\)](#), **ss. 97(5)**, 105(3); S.I. 2004/641, **art. 4** (with Sch. 3 para. 7)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C5** S. 159 applied (with modifications) (21.7.1994) by 1994 c. xi, **s. 11(2)**  
S. 159 restricted (1.4.1996) by 1980 c. 66, **s. 100(6B)(b)** (as inserted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 19, s. 22(1), **Sch. 7 Pt. 1 para. 9** (with ss. 54(5)(7), 55(5)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 3, **Sch. 1**)
- C6** S. 159 applied (with modifications) (28.6.2013) by [The Water Industry \(Specified Infrastructure Projects\) \(English Undertakers\) Regulations 2013 \(S.I. 2013/1582\)](#), reg. 1(1)(b), **Sch. 1 para. 12(2)** (with reg. 1(1)(c))

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

### *Other works powers*

#### **160 Power to carry out works for sewerage purposes. E+W**

- (1) A sewerage undertaker may, by agreement with the owner or occupier of any premises, carry out at that person's expense—
- (a) any work in connection with the construction, laying, alteration or repair of a sewer or drain which that person is entitled to carry out; or
  - (b) any work which the undertaker has required that person to carry out under Part IV of this Act;
- and for that purpose the undertaker shall have all such rights as that person would have.
- (2) Sections 291, 293 and 294 of the <sup>M12</sup>Public Health Act 1936 (which provide for the means of, and for limitations on, the recovery of expenses incurred by a local authority) shall apply in relation to the recovery by a sewerage undertaker of any sums under this section as they apply in relation to the recovery of expenses under that Act by a local authority.

#### **Marginal Citations**

M12 1936 c. 49.

#### **161 Power to deal with foul water and pollution. E+W**

- (1) Subject to the provisions of Chapter III of this Part, every relevant undertaker shall, for the purpose of carrying out its functions, have power—
- (a) to carry out in a street all such works as are requisite for securing that the water in any relevant waterworks is not polluted or otherwise contaminated; and
  - (b) to carry out any works requisite for, or incidental to, the purposes of any works falling within paragraph (a) above, including for those purposes the following kinds of works, that is to say—
    - (i) breaking up or opening a street;
    - (ii) tunnelling or boring under a street;
    - (iii) breaking up or opening a sewer, drain or tunnel;
    - (iv) moving or removing earth and other materials;
- and the provisions of section 158 above shall, so far as applicable, have effect in relation to the powers conferred by this subsection as they have effect in relation to the powers conferred by subsection (1) of that section.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of Chapter III of this Part, every relevant undertaker shall, for the purpose of carrying out its functions, have power—
- (a) to carry out on any land which is not in, under or over a street all such works as are requisite for securing that the water in any relevant waterworks is not polluted or otherwise contaminated; and
  - (b) to carry out any works requisite for, or incidental to, the purposes of any works falling within paragraph (a) above;
- and the provisions of section 159 above shall, so far as applicable, have effect in relation to the powers conferred by this subsection as they have effect in relation to the powers conferred by subsection (1) of that section.

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (3) Without prejudice to the powers conferred by subsections (1) and (2) above but subject to the provisions of Chapter III of this Part, every water undertaker shall have power, on any land which belongs to that undertaker or over or in which that undertaker has acquired the necessary easements or rights, to construct and maintain drains, sewers, watercourses, catchpits and other works for the purpose—
- (a) of intercepting, treating or disposing of any foul water arising or flowing upon that land; or
  - (b) of otherwise preventing the pollution—
    - (i) of any waters, whether on the surface or underground, which belong to [F24the Environment Agency][F25or the NRBW] or any water undertaker or from which [F24the Environment Agency][F25or the NRBW] or any water undertaker is authorised to take water;
    - (ii) without prejudice to sub-paragraph (i) above, of any reservoir which belongs to or is operated by [F24the Environment Agency][F25or the NRBW] or any water undertaker or which [F24the Environment Agency][F25or the NRBW] or any water undertaker is proposing to acquire or construct for the purpose of being so operated; or
    - (iii) of any underground strata from which [F24the Environment Agency][F25or the NRBW] or any water undertaker is for the time being authorised to abstract water in pursuance of a licence under Chapter II of Part II of the M13Water Resources Act 1991.
- (4) Where any water undertaker is proposing to carry out any such works as are mentioned in subsection (3) above and the proposed works will affect any watercourse, the undertaker shall consult [F24the Environment Agency][F26, where the proposed works will affect any watercourse in England, and the NRBW, where the proposed works will affect any watercourse in Wales,] before carrying out the works.
- (5) Without prejudice to the protective provisions of Chapter III of this Part, nothing in subsection (3) above shall authorise any water undertaker, without the consent of the navigation authority in question, to intercept or take any water which a navigation authority are authorised to take or use for the purposes of their undertaking.
- (6) Any dispute as to whether any consent for the purposes of subsection (5) above is being unreasonably withheld shall be referred to the arbitration of a single arbitrator to be appointed by agreement between the parties to the dispute or, in default of agreement, by the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers.
- (7) In section 158 above the references to the laying of a relevant pipe shall include references—
- (a) to the laying of any drain or sewer for any of the purposes mentioned in subsection (3)(a) and (b) above; and
  - (b) to the construction of a watercourse for any of those purposes.
- (8) In this section—
- “the protective provisions of Chapter III of this Part” means the provisions of sections 183 to 191 below;
- “relevant waterworks” means any waterworks which contain water which is or may be used by a water undertaker for providing a supply of water to any premises; and
- “waterworks” includes any water main, resource main, service pipe or discharge pipe and any spring, well, adit, borehole, service reservoir or tank.

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

#### Textual Amendments

- F24** Words in s. 161(3)(4) substituted (1.4.1996) by 1995 c. 25, s. 120(1), **Sch. 22 para. 117** (with ss. 7(6), 115, 117); S.I. 1996/186, **art. 3**
- F25** Words in s. 161(3)(b) inserted (1.4.2013) by The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/755), **art. 1(2)**, **Sch. 2 para. 250(2)** (with Sch. 7)
- F26** Words in s. 161(4) inserted (1.4.2013) by The Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 (S.I. 2013/755), **art. 1(2)**, **Sch. 2 para. 250(3)** (with Sch. 7)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C7** S. 161 applied (with modifications) (28.6.2013) by The Water Industry (Specified Infrastructure Projects) (English Undertakers) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/1582), **reg. 1(1)(b)**, **Sch. 1 para. 12(3)** (with **reg. 1(1)(c)**)

#### Marginal Citations

- M13** 1991 c. 57.

## 162 Works in connection with metering. **E+W**

(1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, to section 148 above and to the provisions of Chapter III of this Part, where—

- [<sup>F27</sup>(a) subsection (1A) below applies to a relevant undertaker in respect of any premises; and]
- (b) there is either—
- (i) a service pipe which is connected with a water undertaker's water main and by which a supply of water is or could be provided to those premises or to any building in which those premises are contained; or
  - (ii) a drain or private sewer which connects those premises with a public sewer,

the undertaker shall have power, in accordance with section 172 below or otherwise, to carry out any works specified in subsection (3) below.

[<sup>F28</sup>(1A) This subsection applies to a relevant undertaker in respect of any premises if—

- (a) the undertaker has fixed any charges in relation to any premises by reference to volume, [<sup>F29</sup>or]
- (b) the undertaker is entitled so to fix any charges because the person who is the consumer in relation to the premises for the purposes of Chapter I of Part V of this Act has exercised his right to give—
  - (i) a measured charges notice under section 144A above, or
  - (ii) any consent for the purposes of section 144B(2)(a)(ii) above,
 and has not revoked the measured charges notice or consent under section 144A, or
- (c) the undertaker has given notice of its intention of so fixing any charges—
  - (i) within the period specified in the notice, or
  - (ii) in a case where it is not for the time being entitled so to fix the charges, if and when it becomes entitled to do so [<sup>F30</sup>or
- (d) a [<sup>F31</sup>water supply licensee] supplies water to those premises using the undertaker's supply system][<sup>F32</sup>, or

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (e) a sewerage licensee provides sewerage services in respect of those premises using the undertaker's sewerage system.]]
- [<sup>F33</sup>(1B) In subsection (1A)(d) above, the reference to the supply system of a water undertaker shall be construed in accordance with [<sup>F34</sup>section 17B] above.]
- [<sup>F35</sup>(1C) In subsection (1A)(e) above, the reference to the sewerage system of a sewerage undertaker shall be construed in accordance with section 17BA.]
- (2) The power under subsection (1) above to carry out works specified in subsection (3) below shall include power to carry out any such works in a street; and the power conferred by virtue of subsection (1)(c) of section 158 above and subsection (6) of that section shall apply in relation to the power conferred by this subsection as they apply in relation to the powers conferred by that section.
- (3) The works mentioned in subsections (1) and (2) above are, in relation to any premises—
- (a) works consisting in the installation and connection of any meter for use in determining the amount of any charges which have been or may be fixed in relation to the premises;
  - (b) where the premises comprise a house which is one of two or more houses to which the supply of water is wholly or partly by the same service pipe, works consisting in the installation and connection, for any purpose connected with the installation or connection of such a meter, of a separate service pipe for that house;
  - (c) works for the purpose of maintaining, repairing, disconnecting or removing—
    - (i) any meter which has been installed for use in determining the amount of any charges which have been or may be fixed in relation to the premises; or
    - (ii) any pipes or apparatus installed in the course of any works specified in this section;
- and
- (d) any other works appearing to the undertaker to be necessary or expedient for any purpose connected with the carrying out of any works specified in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) above, including the installation and connection of any pipes or other apparatus on the premises and the alteration or removal of any of the plumbing of the premises.
- (4) A notice given for the purposes of subsection (1)(a) above may relate to particular premises or to any description of premises and shall be given—
- (a) by publishing the notice in the locality in which the premises to which it relates are situated in such a manner as the undertaker considers appropriate for bringing it to the attention of the persons likely to be affected by it; and
  - (b) by serving a copy of the notice on the Secretary of State.
- (5) Subject to subsection (6) below, any works carried out by a water undertaker by virtue of the provisions of this section shall be necessary works for the purposes of Chapter II of Part III of this Act.
- (6) Nothing in this section shall prevent the exercise by a water undertaker of its power by virtue of subsection (3)(b) of section 64 above to impose a condition by virtue of subsection (2)(c) or (d) of section 47 above in a case where it has, under the said section 64, required the provision of a separate service pipe to any premises.

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (7) Part II of Schedule 6 to this Act shall apply to the powers conferred by this section.
- (8) Any dispute between a relevant undertaker and any other person (including another such undertaker) as to the exercise of any power under this section to carry out any works on any premises shall be referred to the arbitration of a single arbitrator appointed—
- (a) by agreement between the undertaker and that person; or
  - (b) in default of agreement, by [<sup>F36</sup>the Authority].
- (9) Without prejudice to subsection (2) above, nothing in section 158, 159 or 161 above shall authorise the installation of any apparatus for measuring or showing the volume of water supplied to, or of effluent discharged from, any premises where that apparatus is to be used for the purpose only of determining the amount of any charges fixed, or to be fixed, in relation to those premises wholly or partly by reference to the volume of that water or effluent.

#### Textual Amendments

- F27** S. 162(1)(a) substituted (1.4.2000) by 1999 c. 9, s. 10(1)(2); S.I. 1999/3440, art. 3
- F28** S. 162(1A) inserted (1.4.2000) by 1999 c. 9, s.10(1)(3); S.I. 1999/3440, art. 3
- F29** Word in s. 162(1A)(a) inserted (1.12.2005) by Water Act 2003 (c. 37), ss. 101(1), 105(3), Sch. 8 para. 37(2); S.I. 2005/2714, art. 3(c) (with Sch. para. 8)
- F30** S. 162(1A)(d) and preceding word inserted (1.12.2005) by Water Act 2003 (c. 37), ss. 101(1), 105(3), Sch. 8 para. 37(3); S.I. 2005/2714, art. 3(c) (with Sch. para. 8)
- F31** Words in s. 162(1A)(d) substituted (1.4.2016) by Water Act 2014 (c. 21), s. 94(3), Sch. 7 para. 105(2)(a); S.I. 2016/465, art. 2(m), Sch. 1 para. 1(s) (with Sch. 2) (as amended (22.3.2017) by S.I. 2017/462, art. 16)
- F32** S. 162(1A)(e) and word inserted (1.4.2017) by Water Act 2014 (c. 21), s. 94(3), Sch. 7 para. 105(2)(b); S.I. 2017/462, art. 3(k)(xvi)
- F33** S. 162(1B) inserted (1.12.2005) by Water Act 2003 (c. 37), ss. 101(1), 105(3), Sch. 8 para. 37(4); S.I. 2005/2714, art. 3(c) (with Sch. para. 8)
- F34** Words in s. 162(1B) substituted (1.4.2017) by Water Act 2014 (c. 21), s. 94(3), Sch. 7 para. 105(3); S.I. 2017/462, art. 3(k)(xvi)
- F35** S. 162(1C) inserted (1.4.2017) by Water Act 2014 (c. 21), s. 94(3), Sch. 7 para. 105(4); S.I. 2017/462, art. 3(k)(xvi)
- F36** Words in Act substituted (1.4.2006) by virtue of Water Act 2003 (c. 37), ss. 36(2), 105(3); S.I. 2005/2714, art. 4(c)

### 163 Power to fit stopcocks. **E+W**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below and without prejudice to section 159 above, a water undertaker shall have power, at its own expense, to fit a stopcock to any service pipe by which a supply of water is or is to be provided to any premises by the undertaker [<sup>F37</sup>or [<sup>F38</sup>a water supply licensee]], whether that pipe belongs to the undertaker or to any other person.
- (2) A stopcock fitted in private premises by a water undertaker to any service pipe shall be situated as near as practicable to any street from which that pipe enters those premises.

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

#### Textual Amendments

- F37** Words in s. 163(1) inserted (1.12.2005) by [Water Act 2003 \(c. 37\)](#), ss. 101(1), 105(3), [Sch. 8 para. 38](#); [S.I. 2005/2714](#), [art. 3\(c\)](#) (with [Sch. para. 8](#))
- F38** Words in s. 163(1) substituted (1.4.2016) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(3), [Sch. 7 para. 106](#); [S.I. 2016/465](#), [art. 2\(m\)](#), [Sch. 1 para. 1\(t\)](#) (with [Sch. 2](#)) (as amended (22.3.2017) by [S.I. 2017/462](#), [art. 16](#))

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C8** S. 163 restricted (1.4.1996) by [1980 c. 66](#), [s. 100\(6B\)\(b\)](#) (as inserted (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 19](#), s. 22(1), [Sch. 7 Pt. I para. 9](#) (with ss. 54(5)(7), 55(5)); [S.I. 1996/396](#), [art. 3](#), [Sch. 1](#))

## 164 Agreements for works with respect to water sources. **E+W**

- (1) A water undertaker may enter into agreements under this section with the owners and occupiers of any land, or with a local authority, with respect to the carrying out and maintenance by any party to the agreement of such works as the undertaker considers necessary—
- for the purpose of draining that land; or
  - for more effectually collecting, conveying or preserving the purity of any water which the undertaker is for the time being authorised to take.
- (2) Before entering into an agreement under this section with respect to the carrying out of works the carrying out of which would result in the discharge of any water into a watercourse otherwise than through public sewers, a water undertaker shall consult <sup>F39</sup>—
- the Environment Agency, if the proposed works will affect any watercourse in England,
  - the NRBW, if the proposed works will affect any watercourse in Wales, and
  - if the watercourse] is subject to the jurisdiction of a navigation authority, that authority.
- (3) An agreement under this section with the owner of any land which is expressed to be binding on and enforceable against the owner's successors in title to that land—
- may be registered under section 2 of the <sup>M14</sup>Land Charges Act 1972 as an obligation affecting land falling within Class D; and
  - shall be so binding and enforceable unless it is void by reason of a failure so to register it.
- (4) In this section the reference to a local authority includes a reference to a county council and to the Sub-Treasurer of the Inner Temple and the Under-Treasurer of the Middle Temple; and any expenses incurred by the Common Council of the City of London in the exercise of their functions under this section shall be defrayed as part of their general expenses.

#### Textual Amendments

- F39** Words in s. 164(2) substituted (14.7.2014) by [Water Act 2014 \(c. 21\)](#), s. 94(2)(t), [Sch. 7 para. 107](#)

#### Marginal Citations

- M14** [1972 c. 61](#).

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

### *Powers to discharge water*

#### **165 Discharges for works purposes. E+W**

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section and to section 166 below, where any water undertaker—
- (a) is exercising or about to exercise any power conferred by section 158, 159, 161 or 163 above (other than the power conferred by section 161(3) above); or
  - (b) is carrying out, or is about to carry out, the construction, alteration, repair, cleaning, or examination of any reservoir, well, borehole, or other work belonging to or used by that undertaker for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying out of any of its functions,
- the undertaker may cause the water in any relevant pipe or in any such reservoir, well, borehole or other work to be discharged into any available watercourse.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall authorise any discharge which—
- (a) damages or injuriously affects the works or property of any railway undertakers or navigation authority; or
  - (b) floods or damages any highway.
- (3) If any water undertaker fails to take all necessary steps to secure that any water discharged by it under this section is as free as may be reasonably practicable from—
- (a) mud and silt;
  - (b) solid, polluting, offensive or injurious substances; and
  - (c) any substances prejudicial to fish or spawn, or to spawning beds or food of fish,
- the undertaker shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (4) In this section “relevant pipe” means any water main (including a trunk main), resource main, discharge pipe or service pipe.

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C9** S. 165 restricted (1.4.1996) by 1980 c. 66, s. 100(6B)(b) (as inserted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 19, s. 22(1), Sch. 7 Pt. 1 para. 9 (with ss. 54(5)(7), 55(5)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 3, Sch. 1)

#### **166 Consents for certain discharges under section 165. E+W**

- (1) Except in an emergency, no discharge through any pipe the diameter of which exceeds two hundred and twenty-nine millimetres shall be made under section 165 above except with the consent of [<sup>F40</sup>the appropriate agency] and of any navigation authority which carries out functions in relation to—
- (a) the part of the watercourse where the discharge is made; or
  - (b) any part of that watercourse which is less than three miles downstream from the place of the discharge.
- (2) Where a water undertaker makes an application to any authority for a consent for the purposes of this section—
- (a) that application shall be accompanied or supplemented by all such information as that authority may reasonably require; and



*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (b) the undertaker shall serve a copy of the application, and of any consent given on that application, on every person who—
- (i) is registered with the undertaker in respect of any premises which are within three miles of the place where the discharge to which the application relates is proposed to be made and are not upstream from that place; and
  - (ii) has not agreed in writing that he need not be served with such a copy; but, subject to subsection (4) below and without prejudice to the effect (if any) of any other contravention of the requirements of this section in relation to such an application, a failure to provide information in pursuance of the obligation to supplement such an application shall not invalidate the application.
- (3) Subject to subsection (4) below, an application for a consent for the purposes of this section shall be determined—
- (a) in the case of an application with respect to a particular discharge, before the end of the period of seven days beginning with the day after the application is made; and
  - (b) in any other case, before the end of the period of three months beginning with that day;
- and, subject to that subsection, where an application for any consent is required to be determined within the period specified in paragraph (a) above and is not so determined, the consent applied for shall be deemed to have been given unconditionally.
- (4) Where—
- (a) an undertaker which has made an application to any authority for a consent for the purposes of this section has failed to comply with its obligation under subsection (2)(a) above to supplement that application with information required by that authority; and
  - (b) that requirement was made by that authority at such a time before the end of the period within which that authority is required to determine the application as gave the undertaker a reasonable opportunity to provide the required information within that period,
- that authority may delay his determination of the application until a reasonable time after the required information is provided.
- (5) A consent for the purposes of this section may relate to a particular discharge or to discharges of a particular description and may be made subject to such reasonable conditions as may be specified by the person giving it; but a consent for those purposes shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- (6) Any dispute as to whether a consent for the purposes of this section should be given or withheld, or as to whether the conditions to which any such consent is made subject are reasonable, shall be referred to the arbitration of a single arbitrator appointed by agreement between the parties to the dispute or, in default of agreement, by the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers.
- (7) Where any discharge under section 165 above is made in an emergency without the consent which, if there were no emergency, would be required by virtue of this section, the undertaker which made the discharge shall, as soon as practicable after making the discharge, serve a notice which—
- (a) states that the discharge has been made; and

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (b) gives such particulars of the discharge and of the emergency as the persons served with the notice might reasonably require,  
on every person on whom that undertaker would have been required to serve the application for that consent or any copy of that application.
- (8) If any water undertaker contravenes, without reasonable excuse, any of the requirements of this section or any condition of a consent given for the purposes of this section, it shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (9) Nothing in this section shall require any consent to be obtained, or any notice to be served, in respect of any discharge if the requirements of section 34 of the <sup>M15</sup>Water Act 1945 (temporary discharges into watercourses) in relation to that discharge had been satisfied before 1st September 1989.
- [<sup>F41</sup>(10) In this section “the appropriate agency” means—
- (a) the Environment Agency, in relation to discharges of water in England;
  - (b) the NRBW, in relation to discharges of water in Wales.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F40** Words in s. 166(1) substituted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 251(2)** (with Sch. 7)
- F41** S. 166(10) inserted (1.4.2013) by [The Natural Resources Body for Wales \(Functions\) Order 2013 \(S.I. 2013/755\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 251(3)** (with Sch. 7)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C10** S. 166 modified (30.11.2017) by [The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(S.I. 2017/1012\)](#), regs. 1(2), **102(4)**

#### Marginal Citations

- M15** 1945 c. 42.

### *Compulsory works orders*

#### 167 **Compulsory works orders.** E+W

- (1) Where a water undertaker <sup>F42</sup>... is proposing, for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying out of any of its functions <sup>F42</sup>... —
- (a) to carry out any engineering or building operations; or
  - (b) to discharge water into any inland waters or underground strata,
- the undertaker may apply to the Secretary of State for an order under this section (“a compulsory works order”).
- (2) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the Secretary of State may, on an application under subsection (1) above, by order made by statutory instrument—
- (a) confer such compulsory powers; and
  - (b) grant such authority,
- as he considers necessary or expedient for the purpose of enabling any engineering or building operations or discharges of water to be carried out or made for the purposes

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

---

of, or in connection with, the carrying out of the functions with respect to which the application was made.

[<sup>F43</sup>(2A) The Secretary of State may not exercise the power under subsection (2) in respect of anything to be done in England.]

(3) Schedule 11 to this Act shall have effect with respect to applications for compulsory works orders and with respect to such orders.

(4) Subject to the provisions of Schedule 11 to this Act, a compulsory works order may—

(a) without prejudice to section 155 above, confer power to acquire compulsorily any land, including—

(i) power to acquire interests in and rights over land by the creation of new rights and interests; and

(ii) power, by the compulsory acquisition by any water undertaker of any rights over land which is to be or has been acquired by that undertaker, to extinguish any such rights;

(b) apply for the purposes of the order, either with or without modifications, any of the relevant provisions of this Part of this Act which do not apply for those purposes apart from by virtue of this paragraph;

(c) make any authority granted by the order subject to such conditions as may be specified in the order;

(d) amend or repeal any local statutory provision;

(e) contain such supplemental, consequential and transitional provision as the Secretary of State considers appropriate.

(5) Without prejudice to any duty imposed by virtue of section 191 below, where—

(a) the Secretary of State makes a compulsory works order authorising a water undertaker to carry out works for or in connection with the construction or operation of a reservoir or conferring compulsory powers for that purpose on such an undertaker; and

(b) it appears to him that the works to be carried out may permanently affect the area in which they are situated and are not primarily intended to benefit the inhabitants of that area,

he may include in the order provision with respect to facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupation for the benefit of those inhabitants.

(6) Nothing in any compulsory works order shall exempt any water undertaker from any restriction imposed by Chapter II of Part II of the <sup>M16</sup>Water Resources Act 1991 (abstraction and impounding of water).

(7) It is hereby declared that a compulsory works order may grant authority for discharges of water by a water undertaker where the undertaker has no power to take water, or to require discharges to be made, from the inland waters or other source from which the discharges authorised by the order are intended to be made; but nothing in so much of any such order as grants authority for any discharges of water shall have the effect of conferring any such power.

(8) In this section the reference to the relevant provisions of this Part is a reference to the provisions of this Part except sections 172 and 173, the provisions of Chapter II and any provision of this Part which is one of the relevant sewerage provisions.

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

#### Textual Amendments

- F42** Words in s. 167(1) inserted by 2008 c. 29 Sch. 2 para. 50, which amendment ceases to have effect (1.10.2010) by [Flood and Water Management Act 2010 \(c. 29\)](#), **ss. 41(1), 49(3)** (with s. 49(1)(6)); S.I. 2010/2169, art. 4, Sch.
- F43** S. 167(2A) inserted (1.10.2010) by [Flood and Water Management Act 2010 \(c. 29\)](#), **ss. 41(2), 49(3)** (with **ss. 41(3), 49(1)(6)**); S.I. 2010/2169, art. 4, Sch.

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C11** S. 167: functions for certain purposes exercised concurrently with the Secretary of State (W.) (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672](#), art. 2, **Sch. 1**

#### Marginal Citations

- M16** [1991 c. 57](#).

### *Entry to land etc. by water undertakers*

#### 168 Entry for works purposes. **E+W**

- (1) Any person designated in writing for the purpose by a relevant undertaker may enter any premises for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2) below.
- (2) The purposes mentioned in subsection (1) above are—
  - (a) the carrying out of any survey or tests for the purpose of determining—
    - (i) whether it is appropriate and practicable for the undertaker to exercise any relevant works power; or
    - (ii) how any such power should be exercised;
 or
  - (b) the exercise of any such power.
- (3) The power, by virtue of subsection (1) above, of a person designated by a relevant undertaker to enter any premises for the purposes of carrying out any survey or tests shall include power—
  - (a) to carry out experimental borings or other works for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the sub-soil; and
  - (b) to take away and analyse such samples of water or effluent or of any land or articles as the undertaker—
    - (i) considers necessary for the purpose of determining either of the matters mentioned in subsection (2)(a) above; and
    - (ii) has authorised that person to take away and analyse.
- (4) Part II of Schedule 6 to this Act shall apply to the rights and powers conferred by this section.
- (5) In this section “relevant works power” means any power conferred by any of the provisions of sections 158, 159, 161, 163 and 165 above, other than section 161(3).

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C12** S. 168 restricted (1.4.1996) by 1980 c. 66, s. 100(6B)(b) (as inserted (1.4.1996) by 1994 c. 19, s. 22(1), Sch. 7 Pt. I para. 9 (with ss. 54(5)(7), 55(5)); S.I. 1996/396, art. 3, Sch. 1)

**169 Power to carry out surveys and to search for water. E+W**

- (1) Without prejudice to the rights and powers conferred by section 168 above, any person designated in writing under this section by a water undertaker may enter any premises for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2) below.
- (2) The purposes mentioned in subsection (1) above are the carrying out of any survey or tests for the purpose of determining—
  - <sup>F44</sup>(a) .....
  - (b) whether it would be appropriate for the undertaker to apply for a compulsory works order under section 167 above and what compulsory powers it would be appropriate to apply for under that section.
- (3) The power by virtue of subsection (1) above of a person designated under this section to enter any premises for the purpose of carrying out any survey or tests shall include power—
  - (a) to carry out experimental borings or other works for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the sub-soil, the presence of underground water in the sub-soil or the quantity or quality of any such water;
  - (b) to install and keep monitoring or other apparatus on the premises for the purpose of obtaining the information on which any such determination as is mentioned in subsection (2) above may be made; and
  - (c) to take away and analyse such samples of water or of any land or articles as the undertaker considers necessary for any of the purposes so mentioned and has authorised that person to take away and analyse.
- (4) [<sup>F45</sup>The powers conferred by this section or section 172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 shall not be exercised on behalf of a water undertaker in any case for purposes connected with the determination of—
  - (a) whether, where or how a reservoir should be constructed; or
  - (b) whether, where or how a borehole should be sunk for the purpose of abstracting water from or discharging water into any underground strata,unless the Secretary of State has, in accordance with subsection (5) below, given his written authorisation in relation to that case for the exercise of those powers for those purposes.
- (5) The Secretary of State shall not give his authorisation for the purposes of subsection (4) above unless—
  - (a) he is satisfied that notice of the proposal to apply for the authorisation has been given to the owner and to the occupier of the premises in question; and
  - (b) he has considered any representations or objections with respect to the proposed exercise of the powers under this section which—
    - (i) have been duly made to him by the owner or occupier of those premises, within the period of fourteen days beginning with the day after the giving of the notice; and
    - (ii) have not been withdrawn.

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (6) Part II of Schedule 6 to this Act shall apply to the rights and powers conferred by this section.

#### Textual Amendments

- F44** S. 169(2)(a) and word omitted (13.7.2016) by virtue of [Housing and Planning Act 2016 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 216(3), [Sch. 14 para. 22\(2\)](#); S.I. 2016/733, reg. 3(h) (with reg. 6)
- F45** Words in s. 169(4) substituted (13.7.2016) by [Housing and Planning Act 2016 \(c. 22\)](#), s. 216(3), [Sch. 14 para. 22\(3\)](#); S.I. 2016/733, reg. 3(h) (with reg. 6)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C13** S. 169(4)(5): functions for certain purposes exercisable concurrently with the Secretary of State (W.) (1.7.1999) by [S.I. 1999/672](#), art. 2, [Sch. 1](#)

### 170 Entry etc. for other purposes. **E+W**

- (1) Any person designated in writing for the purpose by a water undertaker may enter any premises for any of the following purposes, that is to say—
- (a) the carrying out of any survey or tests for the purpose of determining—
    - (i) whether it is appropriate and practicable for the undertaker to exercise any power under any provision of Part III of this Act to disconnect any pipe or cut off any supply of water to any premises or to carry out any works which it is authorised to carry out under section 64(4), 66(3) or 75 above; or
    - (ii) how any such power should be exercised;
  - (b) the exercise of any such power;
  - (c) the monitoring and recording of—
    - (i) whether water supplied to any premises for domestic or food production purposes is wholesome at the time of supply; or
    - (ii) the quality of the water from any source, or combination of sources, which is or is to be used for supplying water to any premises for those purposes,
 and the carrying out of any tests for that purpose.
- (2) Any person designated for the purpose—
- (a) by any water undertaker within whose area any waterworks are situated; or
  - (b) by any water undertaker which takes water from any waterworks,
- shall, on producing some duly authenticated document showing his authority, have a right at all reasonable hours to enter any premises for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is, or has been, any contravention of section 72 above in relation to those waterworks.
- (3) Any person designated in writing for the purpose by a water undertaker may—
- (a) enter any premises for the purpose of—
    - (i) ascertaining whether any provision contained in or made or having effect under this Act with respect to any water fittings or with respect to the waste or misuse of water is being, or has been, contravened;

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (ii) determining whether, and if so in what manner, any power or duty conferred or imposed on any person by regulations under section 74 above should be exercised or performed; or
    - (iii) exercising any such power or performing any such duty;
  - or
  - (b) carry out such inspections, measurements and tests on premises entered by that person or on water fittings or other articles found on any such premises, and take away such samples of water or of any land and such water fittings and other articles, as that person has been authorised to carry out or take away in accordance with regulations under that section.
- (4) During any period when a prohibition or restriction under section 76 above is in force, any person designated for the purpose by the water undertaker which imposed the prohibition or restriction shall, on producing some duly authenticated document showing his authority, have a right at all reasonable hours to enter any premises to which the prohibition or restriction applies for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is, or has been, any contravention of the prohibition or restriction.
- (5) The power by virtue of subsection (1) above of a person designated by a water undertaker to enter any premises for the purpose of carrying out any survey or tests shall include power to take away such samples of water or effluent or of any land or articles as the undertaker—
- (a) considers necessary for the purpose of determining any of the matters mentioned in paragraph (a) or (c) of that subsection; and
  - (b) has authorised that person to carry out or take away.
- (6) Expressions used in this section and in any provision of Part III of this Act in relation to which this section has effect shall have the same meaning in this section as in that provision; and, without prejudice to the generality of this provision, subsections (2) and (3) of section 68 above and the definitions of “food production purposes” and “wholesome” in section 93(1) above shall apply for the purposes of any power conferred by virtue of subsection (1)(c)(i) above as they apply for the purposes of that section.
- (7) Part I of Schedule 6 to this Act shall apply to the rights of entry conferred by subsections (2) and (4) of this section; and Part II of that Schedule shall apply to the rights and powers conferred by the other provisions of this section.
- (8) The provisions of this section shall be without prejudice to the other rights and powers conferred by this Part.

## **171 Entry for sewerage purposes. E+W**

- (1) Any person designated in writing for the purpose by a sewerage undertaker shall, on producing any duly authenticated document showing his authority, have a right to enter any premises at all reasonable hours—
- (a) for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is or has been, on or in connection with the premises, any contravention of any of the relevant sewerage provisions which it is the function of the undertaker to enforce;
  - (b) for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not circumstances exist which would authorise or require the undertaker to take any action or carry out any works under any of the relevant sewerage provisions;

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (c) for the purpose of taking action or carrying out any works authorised by or under any of the relevant sewerage provisions to be taken or carried out by the undertaker;
  - (d) generally for the purpose of carrying out the undertaker's functions under the relevant sewerage provisions.
- (2) Part I of Schedule 6 to this Act shall apply to the right of entry conferred by subsection (1) above.
- (3) Any person designated by a sewerage undertaker under subsection (1) above for the purpose of exercising any power under this section for the purposes of Chapter III of Part IV of this Act may, on any occasion on which he so exercises that power in relation to any premises, obtain and take away any sample of any trade effluent which is passing (either directly or through <sup>F46</sup>a drain or private sewer]) from those premises into any of the undertaker's public sewers.
- <sup>F47</sup>(4) .....
- <sup>F47</sup>(5) .....
- (6) In this section “trade effluent” and “trade premises” have the same meanings as in Chapter III of Part IV of this Act; and, accordingly, section 139 above shall have effect for the purposes of this section as it has effect for the purposes of that Chapter.

#### Textual Amendments

- F46** Words in s. 171(3) substituted (28.5.2004) by [Water Act 2003 \(c. 37\)](#), **ss. 97(6)**, 105(3); [S.I. 2004/641](#), **art. 4(b)** (with [Sch. 3 para. 7](#))
- F47** S. 171(4)(5) repealed (1.4.1996) by [1995 c. 25](#), s. 111(1)(c), 120(3), **Sch. 24** (with [ss. 7\(6\)](#), 115, 117); [S.I. 1996/186](#), **art. 3**

## 172 Entry for metering purposes. **E+W**

- (1) Where the conditions set out in section 162(1) above are satisfied in relation to any premises, any person designated in writing for the purpose by the relevant undertaker in question may enter those premises, or any land occupied with those premises, for any of the purposes specified in subsection (2) below.
- (2) The purposes mentioned in subsection (1) above are—
- (a) the carrying out of any survey or tests for the purpose of determining—
    - (i) whether the carrying out of any works by virtue of paragraph (a) or (b) of subsection (3) of section 162 above is practicable;
    - (ii) whether it is necessary or expedient for any purpose connected with the carrying out of any works by virtue of either of those paragraphs for any other works to be carried out; or
    - (iii) how any works specified in that subsection should be carried out;
  - (b) the carrying out of any works so specified;
  - (c) the inspection, examination or testing of any meter which is on those premises or of any pipes or apparatus installed in the course of any works which were carried out for any purpose that is connected with the installation, connection, testing, maintenance or repair of any such meter;



---

*Status: Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

---

- (d) the ascertainment from any meter of the volume of water supplied to, or of effluent discharged from, those premises.
- (3) Part II of Schedule 6 to this Act shall apply in relation to the rights and powers conferred by the preceding provisions of this section.
- (4) Where any meter or other recording apparatus is provided in any premises in pursuance of Chapter III of Part IV of this Act for the purpose of assessing any charge, a sewerage undertaker may (instead of exercising its powers under this section) for the purpose of reading that meter or apparatus exercise the power conferred by section 171 above as if that purpose were included in the purposes mentioned in subsection (1) of that section.

### **173 Impersonation of persons entitled to entry. E+W**

- (1) A person who, without having been designated or authorised for the purpose by a relevant undertaker, purports to be entitled to enter any premises or vessel in exercise of a power exercisable in pursuance of any such designation or authorisation shall be guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.
- (2) For the purposes of this section it shall be immaterial, where a person purports to be entitled to enter any premises or vessel, that the power which that person purports to be entitled to exercise does not exist or would not be exercisable even if that person had been designated or authorised by a relevant undertaker.

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 07/09/2023.

**Changes to legislation:**

Water Industry Act 1991, CHAPTER I is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 15 October 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.